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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 ACDA-07 TRSE-00 CU-02
BIB-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W
----------051632 038401 /46
R 041627Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4244
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, GE
SUBJECT: GDR'S PUBLIC HANDLNG OF HUMAN RIGHTS

SUMMARY: GDR NEWSPAPERS HAVE REFRAINED FROM DIRECT COMMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. THEY HAVE HOWEVER PUBLISHED ARTICLES ON THIS SUBJECT FROM OTHER COMMUNIST SOURCES, INDICATING SUPPORT FOR GOVERNMENTS OF THE SOVIET UNION, CZECHSLOVAKIA, AND HUNGARY, PARTICULARLY. THEY HAVE ALSO GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PLAY TO OTHER SUBJECTS WHCIH HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS, E.G. THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN
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AFRICA, WHICH AT THE SAME TIME DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE GDR AND EAST EUROEPAN SITUATIONS. IN ADDITION, ANTOEHR THEME, THE ALLEGED INABILITY OF CAPITALIST COUNTRIES TO ASSURE " THE RIGHT TO WORK," HAS BEEN EMPAHSIZED AND SEEMS LIKELY TO BE DEVELOPED BY THE GDR FOR BELGRADE. NEITHER THE U.S. OR PRESIDENT CARTER HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT IN THE GDR'S

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INDIRECT ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING THE PAST FEW WEEKS,EAST GERMAN
NEWSPAPERS HAVE REFRAINED FROM DIRECT COMMENT ON
HUMAN RIGHTS DESPITE ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.
THERE HAS BEEN NO DIRECT GDR COMMENT ON THE CHARTE 77
MOVEMENT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA NOR ON THE SITUATION OF
DISSIDENCE IN THE SOVIET UNION. THERE HAS BEEN
HOWEVER, A SPATE OF ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY FROM OTHER
EAST EUROEPAN OFFICIAL ARTICLES AND COMMENTARY FROM OTHER
EAST ERUOPEAN OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS WHICH HAVE NORMALLY
BEEN REPUBLISHED IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND A
DAY OR TWO AFTER PUBLICATION ELSEWHERE. THIS WAS
HOW THE FEB 12 ARTICLE FROM PRAVDA WAS HANDLED.
THE FULL TEXT WAS PRINTED IN ND ON FEB 15 WITHOUT
COMMENT. IN ADDITION TO THE SOVIET UNION, ARTICLES
HAVE APPEARED MOST FREQUENTLY FROM CZECH AND
HUNGARIAN PAPERS.

2. REGULAR GDR PRESS COVERAGE CONTINUES TO
STATE THAT HELSINKI GAVE NO LICENSE FOR INTERFERING
IN THE DOMESTIC AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES. IN
ADDITION, THE CHARGE THAT CAPITALISTIC COUNTRIES
ARE DENYING THE " RIGHT TO WORK" BECAUSE OF UNEMPLOY-
MENT IS NOW FREQUENTLY MADE. THIS SEEMS TO BE A
THEME WHICH THE GDR MAY WISH TO DEVELOP FOR BELGRADE.

3. AT THE SAME TIME, WE HAVE NOTICED THAT
CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION CONTINUES TO BE DRAWN IN THE GDR
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PRESS TO OTHER SUBJECTS WHCIH HAVE HUMAN RIGHTS
ASPECTS. THIS APPLIES TO ALMOST DAILY COVERAGE OF
THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND CHILE AND CURRENTLY
THE RELATIVELY HEAVY PRESS PALY GIVEN TO TH VISIT
OF FIRST SECRETARY ARISMENDI OF THE URUGUAYAN
COMMUNIST PARTY. THESE LATTER TOPICS FALL GENERALLY
UNDE THE RUBRIC OF " SOLIDARITY" FOR THE " STRUGGLES
OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS". THEY ALSO DIRECT ATTENTION
FROM GDR AND EAST EUROEPAN PROBLEMS.

4. THE REASON FOR THE GDR'S INCLINATION TO
REFRAIN FROM COMMENTING ON HUMAN RIGHTS CAN BE LAID
IN PART TO A DESIRE, AFTER THE BIERMANN AFFAIR, NOT
TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE GDR'S OWN INTENAL SITUATION.
BY CHANCE, THE BIERMANN AFFAIR OCCURRED BEFORE THE
INCREASE IN ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN EASTERN
EUROEP. THE GDR'S HANDLING OF THAT PROBLEM SEEMS
TO HAVE TAKEN THE WIND OUT OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT
THE GDR'S OWN INTELLECTUAL MOVEMENT WOULD SUPPORT

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DISSIDENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE. IN ADDITION PUBLICATION OF
ARTICLES FROM OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SHOWS GDR SUPPORT
FOR TEH GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED BUT ALSO INDICATES TO
GDR WRITERS AND OTHERS THAT THEY LIKEWISE CANNOT
EXPECT SUPPORT FROM DISSIDENTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES.
THE GDR'S TREATMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS OF COURSE
BROADER THAN DAMPING DOWN THE LOCAL INTELLECTUAL
MOVEMENT AND INCLUDES. AS PRIME TOPICS , THE PROLEMS
CONNECTED WITH TRAVEL, EMIGRATION, AND
THE RANE OF CSCE ITEMS.

5. IT IS NOT RULED OUT THAT THE GDR WILL
DEVELOP ITS OWNE CSCE THEMES IN PRESS COVERAGE,
INCLUDING THE " RIGHT TO WORK", A POSSIBILITY THAT HAS
BEEN RUMORED IN EAST BERLIN. THUS FAR, NEITHER THE
U.S. OR THE PRESIDENT HAVE BEEN SINGLED OUT IN THE
GDR'S INDIRECT ATTENTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, PROPAGANDA, PUBLIC RELATIONS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN05442
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770076-1182
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770394/aaaadevp.tel
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Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eaf037be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3212450
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GDR\'S PUBLIC HANDLNG OF HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY: GDR NEWSPAPERS HAVE REFRAINED FROM DIRECT COMMENT ON HUMAN RIGHTS FOR THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS
TAGS: PFOR, GC, XH, UR, CSCE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eaf037be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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